

RESOURCES for AGING
January 16, 2006 (Vol. 2 No. 18)

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the semi-monthly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** in **Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Complimentary Issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on the e-newsletter distribution list, and printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, this issue and past issues can be accessed at www.miseniors.net.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS

Intergenerational Network to Sponsor Spring Conference

Save the date! The Intergenerational Network of Southeast Michigan will conduct a statewide conference **May 18** at Madonna University in **Livonia**. Entitled "Connecting Generations," this will be the first statewide intergenerational conference in Michigan.

The conference will offer workshops on designing, implementing and evaluating intergenerational programs, as well as opportunities for networking, resource exchanges, and advocacy. Intergenerational programs are defined as intentional efforts to engage individuals who are age 55 or older with those who are age 21 or younger.

Keynote speaker will be Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United (GU) in Washington, DC. GU is the only national organization focused solely on promoting intergenerational strategies, programs and public policies.

A call has been issued for conference workshop proposals. All workshop presentations will be 55 minutes in length (including time for questions from the audience) and should include active learning, and involvement by the audience that is designed to facilitate open discussion.

Workshop proposals must be submitted by **February 10**. E-mail proposals to connecgen@madonna.edu or mail them to the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, 600 N. River Street in Ypsilanti, 48198. For more information about workshop proposals, go to www.madonna.edu/pages/congen2006.cfm.

The conference objectives are to highlight existing intergenerational programs, practices and policies; create and strengthen intergenerational efforts; identify areas in Michigan for future intergenerational development; and initiate an ongoing, statewide intergenerational network to collaborate for social and policy change.

The Intergenerational Network of Southeast Michigan has been meeting since last spring to plan the conference. It is a coalition of individuals representing the aging network, foundations, higher education, religious congregations, and elder and youth-serving agencies.

For more information about the conference, go to www.madonna.edu/pages/congen2006.cfm or e-mail to connecgen@madonna.edu.

Michigan WHCoA Delegates Select Top 13 Resolutions

The last issue of Resources for Aging, dated December 27, 2005, listed the top 10 resolutions as voted by 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) delegates from all parts of the country.

The 2005 WHCoA was held **December 11-14 in Washington, DC**. It was the fifth WHCoA since 1960 to make recommendations to the President and Congress to help guide national aging policies for the next decade and beyond. WHCoA delegates selected 50 unranked resolutions. Then they met in working groups to select the top 10 resolutions, and to discuss strategies for implementing them.

In addition, the 23 WHCoA delegates from Michigan selected their own top 13 resolutions. It should be noted, however, that these top 13 represent the personal priorities of the Michigan delegates. They do not represent official recommendations from the Michigan delegation or the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA).

The top 13 selected by Michigan WHCoA delegates are:

- (1) Establish principles to strengthen Social Security.
- (2) Remove barriers to the retention and hiring of older workers, including age discrimination.
- (3) Promote incentives for older workers to continue working and improve employment training and retraining programs to better serve older workers.
- (4) Reauthorize the Older Americans Act within the first six months following the 2005 WHCoA.
- (5) Encourage community designs to promote livable communities that enable aging in place.
- (6) Create a national strategy for promoting elder justice through the prevention and prosecution of elder abuse.
- (7) Ensure that Older Americans have transportation options to retain their mobility and independence.
- (8) Enhance the affordability of Housing for Older Americans.
- (9) Develop a coordinated, comprehensive long-term care strategy by supporting public and private sector initiatives that address financing, choice, quality, service delivery, and the paid and unpaid workforce.
- (10) Promote the importance of nutrition in health promotion and disease prevention and management.
- (11) Attain adequate numbers of healthcare personnel in all professions who are skilled, culturally competent, and specialized in geriatrics.
- (12) Strengthen and improve the Medicaid Program for Seniors.
- (13) Strengthen and improve the Medicare Program.

Early Bird Rates Offered for 2006 NCoA-ASA Joint Conference

The American Society on Aging (ASA) and the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) announces **January 27** as the deadline of the Early Bird Registration for the 2006 Joint Conference of the NCoA-ASA. Entitled "Invest in Aging: Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves," the conference will be held March 16-19 at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**.

It will attract more than 4,000 multidisciplinary professionals, including researchers, practitioners, educators, business people and policy makers to discuss cutting-edge programs and research about the physical, emotional, social, economic and spiritual aspects of aging. It will offer more than 1,000 sessions in 50 subject areas including critical issues in aging sessions, daylong special programs, and pre-conference intensives.

For more information, go to www.agingconference.org or call 800/537-9728, ext. 9675. To view session offerings or to register online, go to www.agingconference.org/agingconference/c06/index.cfm.

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be via conference call at 10:00 a.m. **January 20** in the Conference Room at OSA, 7109 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at albrechtc@michigan.gov

Michigan Task Force on Elder Abuse

The next meeting will be held 10:00 a.m. **February 2** at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbott Road in **East Lansing**. For more information, call **Wendi Middleton** at OSA (517/373-8230) or e-mail her at middletonw@michigan.gov.

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The meeting scheduled for February 14 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held **March 14** at a location to be determined. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail her at bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. **March 16** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov.

OSA State Plan Public Input Sessions

The next state plan public input session will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. **February 21**

at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in **Detroit**.

To date, OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) have conducted two public input sessions (**October 21** at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in **Mt. Pleasant** and **November 18** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center in **Lansing**) and will conduct five more sessions to obtain public input to develop the 2007-2010 State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens.

Those interested in transportation, nutrition, housing, long-term care (LTC), health, independence, scams, employment, and volunteer opportunities for senior adults, and other issues important to senior adults are invited to attend these free public input sessions to express their opinions to policy makers.

The five remaining input sessions will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following sites:

February 21 at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in **Detroit**
March 17 at ACCESS in **Dearborn**
March 21 at Senior Services, Inc. in **Kalamazoo**
March 29 at the U of M Flint Conference Center in **Flint**
May 19 at the Little Bear East Arena & Community Center in **St. Ignace**

Verbal comments made by interested individuals at the public input sessions are welcome. Written comments also may be submitted by **May 20** to OSA (7109 West Saginaw Highway, P.O. Box 30676 in **Lansing**, 48909-8176). For more information or directions to the sites, go to the OSA website (www.miseniors.net) or call OSA (517/373-8230).

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

My Voice, My Choice, an Issues in Aging for Professionals and Families seminar sponsored by Macomb County Community College **January 24** at its Fraser Campus in **Fraser**. For more information, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006.

The Art of Self Care for Social Workers, a breakfast and networking workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **January 27** in the Clark Conference Center at the Sparrow Hospital/St. Lawrence Campus in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu or call 517/353-8620.

The Particulars of Parliamentary Procedure, a training sponsored by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropic and Nonprofit Leadership **January 28** as part of its January Nonprofit Executive Morning Series at the University Club: DeVos Center in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call 616/331-7232 or e-mail to krehaj@gvsu.edu.

Corporate Sponsorship: Tapping into New Revenue Sources, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA), the Accounting Aid Society and the Association of Fundraising Professionals **January 31** at Laurel Manor in **Livonia**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

8 Track Parenting in a CD World, an Issues in Aging for Professionals and Families seminar sponsored by Macomb County Community College **February 2** at its Fraser

Campus in **Fraser**. For more information, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006.

Call for Presentations: Connecting Generations, a statewide conference sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Intergenerational network May 18 at Madonna University in **Livonia** to focus on intergenerational programs and policies. The deadline for submitting presentation proposals is **February 10**. For more information, call 734/485-2000, ext. 239 or e-mail to connecgen@madonna.edu. See also the AGING NETWORK NEWS section of this issue (above).

Do-It-Yourself Care Management, an Issues in Aging for Professionals and Families seminar sponsored by Macomb County Community College **February 11** at its Fraser Campus in **Fraser**. For more information, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006.

7th Annual Legislative Reception, sponsored by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council **February 14** at the Lansing Radisson Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil or call 517/334-7239.

Legislative Luncheon, sponsored by the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (AAAAM) **February 15** on the first floor of the south wing of the Michigan State Capitol Building in **Lansing**. For more information call 517/886-1227, or e-mail to ablan@iserv.net.

Bereavement Issues for Older Adults, a seminar sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work as part of its Spring 2006 Contemporary Issues in Aging Professional Seminar Series **February 18** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/353-8620 or e-mail to brockm@msu.edu.

Will & Trust Preparation, an Issues in Aging for Professionals and Families seminar sponsored by Macomb County Community College **February 21** at its Center Campus in **Clinton Township**. For more information, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006.

Your 36 Hour Day, an Issues in Aging for Professionals and Families seminar sponsored by Macomb County Community College **March 14** at its Fraser Campus in **Fraser**. For more information, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006.

Legal Issues and Eldercare, a seminar sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work as part of its Spring 2006 Contemporary Issues in Aging Professional Seminar Series **March 18** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/353-8620 or e-mail to brockm@msu.edu.

Michigan's Long-Term Care Conference, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Office of Long-Term Care (LTC) Supports and Services **March 23-24** at the Hilton Detroit in **Troy**. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mdch. See also the OTHER RESOURCES section of this issue (below).

Senior Housing Operations & Financing Summit, sponsored by the World Research Group and the Wall Street Journal to optimize performance, and obtain capital for independent, assisted living, skilled nursing and CCRC properties **March 27-28** at Park

Central New York in **New York, NY**. For more information, go to www.worldrg.com or call toll-free 800/647-7600.

Final Financial Decisions, an Issues in Aging for Professionals and Families seminar sponsored by Macomb County Community College **April 3** at its Fraser Campus in **Fraser**. For more information, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Aging, a seminar sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work as part of its Spring 2006 Contemporary Issues in Aging Professional Seminar Series **April 22** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/353-8620 or e-mail to brockm@msu.edu.

Gala 2006: An Evening Under the Stars, entitled "Living Longer and Loving It" with net proceeds to benefit the Chronic Illness Coalition (CIC) **April 25** at the Laurel Manor Convention Center in **Livonia**. For more information, call 734/658-4317.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

10th Annual Play Therapy Conference, sponsored by Life Guidance Services, a nonprofit behavioral health organization, **February 24-25** at the Radisson Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, call 616/774-9548, ext. 520.

11th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit, sponsored by the Office of Highway Safety Planning of the Michigan Department of Transportation (M-DOT) **February 28-March 1** at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/333-5325.

7th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference, entitled "Learning, Laughing and Caring" sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **March 29** to showcase the creative interests (crafts, memoirs and music) of non-professional Michigan senior adults age 55 and older. For more information, call 313/577-2297 or e-mail to j.mendez@wayne.edu.

Michigan Nonprofit Super Conference 2006, entitled "New Directions in Nonprofit Excellence, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association **May 2-3** at the Sheraton Detroit Novi in **Novi**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

Partnering in Care: The Seventh Dr. Richard Seyfarth Schreiber Memorial Conference, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **May 16** at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in **Kalamazoo**. For more information go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call 269/387-4174.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT TRAINING EVENTS

Running for Office Training, sponsored by the Michigan Women's Commission for women running for public office **January 20-21** at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, go to

www.michigan.gov/mdcr or call 517/373-2884.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Black Male Populations, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **February 6** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Moving a Loved One (When and How to Move a Loved One), a free training session sponsored by the Macomb County Department of Senior Citizen Services as part of its Community Education Series **February 9** at the Southeast Health Center in **St. Clair Shores**. For more information or to register, call 586/466-6817 or e-mail to joy.roark@macombcountymi.gov.

You Can't do it All -- How to be an Effective Caregiver, a free Caring Partners Workshop sponsored by the Brown Jewish Community Adult Day Care Program with support from the Jewish Women's Foundation **February 12** at Young Israel of Southfield in **Southfield**. For more information, call 248/233-4000.

Partnering with Your Doctor, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association – Greater Michigan Chapter, Upper Peninsula Region **February 14** at the Hiawatha Behavioral Health Office in **Manistique**. For more information, call toll-free 800/272-3900 or 906/228-3910.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Spanish Speaking Populations, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **March 6** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Trainers' Creativity Day Camp 2006, a two-day training experience for training coordinators sponsored by the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center **March 7-8** at the Hillton Inn in **Southfield**, **March 8-9** at the Clarion Hotel Convention Center in **Lansing**, and **March 9-10** at the Radisson Hotel North in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call toll-free 800/258-7246 or go to www.nationalseminarstraining.com.

Non-Alzheimer's Primary Degenerative Dementias & Primary Degenerative Dementias Current Research, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **March 17** at the DeVos Family Center for Scouting in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Challenging Behaviors of Dementia, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **March 31** at Shelby Adult Education in **Shelby**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Skills Content for Social Work with Diverse Populations: Refugee Populations, a free workshop sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **April 3** in Baker Hall at MSU. For more information, call 517/353-8616 or e-mail to hallr@msu.edu.

Losing Your World, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **April 14** at Above & Beyond in **Norton Shores**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **April 28** at Michigan Works at Michigan Works in **Reed City**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Losing Your World, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **May 19** at the Montcalm County Commission on Aging in **Stanton**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Grant Writing Made Simple, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **May 25** at the Holiday Inn-Saginaw in **Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **June 9** at Evergreen Commons in **Holland**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

Identifying Community Resources, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **June 23** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **February 7** at the Diocese of Gaylord in **Gaylord**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Grief and Loss, a Contemporary Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Continuing Education Program as part of its Professional Seminar Series **February 18** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu/-sw/ceu/index.html or call 517/353-8620.

Almost Home, the broadcast premiere of a feature-length film, a documentary shot on location in a nursing home and produced by 371 Productions and Wisconsin Public Television to be aired **February 21** on your local public television station in Michigan. For more information, go to www.almosthomedoc.org.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **March 7** at the Medilodge Nursing Home in **Sterling**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Ingham County Kinship Care Service Provider's Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **March 16** at the Holiday Inn-Saginaw in **Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Legal Issues and Eldercare, a Contemporary Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Continuing Education Program as part of its Professional Seminar Series **March 18** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For

more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu/-sw/ceu/index.html or call 517/353-8620.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **April 4** at the Diocese of Gaylord in **Gaylord**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Kent County Kinship Legal and Meditation Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **April 20** at the Eastbrook Homes Conference Center in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Gay and Lesbian Issues, a Contemporary Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Continuing Education Program as part of its Professional Seminar Series **April 22** at MSU in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.ssc.msu.edu/-sw/ceu/index.html or call 517/353-8620.

Wayne County Kinship Legal and Meditation Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **April 26** at the William Costick Center in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), sponsored by Citizens for Better Care of Northern Michigan **May 2** at the Medilodge in **Hillman**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Ingham County Kinship Caregivers Speak-Out Meeting with State Legislators interested in kinship issues, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **May 12** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

UP Kinship Service Provider's Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **June 1** at the Northern Michigan University (NMU) Don Bottum University Center in **Marquette**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

Managing Challenging Behaviors of Dementia, a training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **June 16** at the Osceola State Bank in **Baldwin**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call 616/771-9710.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

Spiritual Assessment, an all-day seminar sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **January 19** at the Claremont Manor Retirement Community in **Claremont, CA** and **January 20** at the Fredericka Manor Care Center in **Chula Vista, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

Health Action 2006 Conference, sponsored by Families USA **January 26-28** at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.familiesusa.org, call 202/628-3030 or e-mail to mdelaney@familiesusa.org.

The 2006 International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence, sponsored by the University of Florida and the American Occupational Therapy Association **February 1-5** at the Hilton St. Petersburg in **St. Petersburg, FL**. For more information, go to <https://secure.phphp.ufl.edu/icadi/index.php> or call 352/273-6135.

32nd Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, entitled "Outcomes of Gerontological and Geriatric Education" and sponsored by The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) **February 9-12** at the Westin Indianapolis in **Indianapolis, IN**. For more information, go to www.aghe.org or call 202/289-9806.

World Parkinson Congress, sponsored by the World Parkinson Congress and the National Institutes of Health **February 22-26** at the Washington Convention Center in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.worldpdcongress.org or call 972/395-1119.

2006 Annual Housing Policy Conference & Lobby Day, sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition **February 27-28** at the Capital Hilton in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.nlihc.org, call 202/662-1530 or e-mail to conference@nlihc.org.

Native Women & Men's Wellness V Conference, a health promotion conference sponsored by the University of Oklahoma OUTREACH **March 5-9** at the Town and Country Resort Hotel in **San Diego, CA**. For more information, go to www.hpp.ou.edu or call 405/325-1316.

2006 Joint Conference, entitled "Invest in Aging: Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves" and co-sponsored by the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) **March 16-19** at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.org or call 800/537-9728, ext. 9675. See also the AGING NETWORK NEWS section (above).

Tools for Spiritual Care, an all-day seminar to explore various techniques for spiritual care through case studies sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **March 29** at the Villa Gardens Retirement Community in **Pasadena, CA** and **March 30** at Mt. Miguel Covenant Village in **Spring Valley, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

Sixth Annual National Aging and Law Conference, sponsored by the AARP Foundation, the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and others, **April 19-23** at the Double Tree Hotel in **Arlington, VA**. For more information, go to www.aarp.org/nltp or call 202/434-2197.

2006 National Aging and Disability I&R/A Symposium, sponsored by the National Aging I&R Support Center and the National State Units on Aging (NASUA) to be held in conjunction with the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRA) Training and Education Conference **June 4-7** at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee in **Milwaukee, WI**. For more information go to www.nasua.org/informationandreferral, call 202/898-2578 or e-mail to glink@nasua.org.

Annual Research Meeting 2006 (the premier forum for health services research), sponsored by Academy Health **June 25-27** at the Washington State Convention &

Trade Center in **Seattle, WA**. For more information, go to www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts.

30th Annual Summer School of Gerontology, sponsored by the South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging **August 20-25** to provide education and training for professionals who work with the aging population and others interested in aging issues at Springmaid Beach, **Myrtle Beach, SC**. The lodging and meal costs of course presenters, as well as limited travel costs will be covered. For more information, call 803/734-9878 or e-mail to halljen@aging.sc.gov.

FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS & RESOURCES

The following information about for-profit training events and resources is presented as a public service for informational purposes only, and should not be interpreted as constituting OSA promotion or endorsement. OSA does not receive financial or any other benefit for providing this information.

Publishing Company Offers Resources for Health Care

Health Resources Publishing offers a number of resources, including a free weekly e-mail newsletter entitled "Healthcare Industry Weekly Watch," subscriptions to the Adult Day Services Letter, and a CD entitled "Winning Ideas for Marketing an Adult Day Care Center."

It also provides a website (www.healthrespubs.com) that contains information for healthcare professionals from an array of disciplines, including fund raising and grant development, hospice, adult day services, senior services, management, marketing, long-term care (LTC) administration, wellness and health promotion, and employee assistance programs. The website also contains forums where visitors can post questions about their most pressing professional needs and concerns.

To sign up for the free weekly e-mail newsletter, call toll-free 888/329-6242 or go to www.healthresourcesonline.com/freenews.htm. For more information, or to subscribe to the Adult Day Services Letter (a source for adult day services management since 1985), call toll-free 800/516-4343 or e-mail to info@healthresourcesonline.com.

FOUNDATIONS

Avon Foundation Helps American Indian Elders Prevent Breast Cancer

The Avon Foundation has given the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan more than \$160,000 since 2003 to promote breast cancer education among American Indian Tribes through the Pink Shawl Project.

The foundation has funded the "Pink Shawl Project" to encourage American Indian women to make personal shawls to wear while dancing at pow-wows. The pink shawl uses traditional wraps to raise awareness about breast cancer. In this way, pink shawls have become symbols of awareness to women of all ages.

The Pink Shawl Project also has produced a DVD about breast cancer. Tribes across the country are now using it to start similar projects in their own communities.

In 2005, the Avon Foundation celebrated its 50th anniversary. It is committed to improving the lives of women and their families globally, and its focus is on the fight against breast cancer and domestic violence.

For more information, go to www.avonfoundation.org or call toll free 866/505-2866.

OTHER RESOURCES

MDCH to Conduct Michigan LTC Conference

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will conduct a two-day conference **March 23-24** at the Hilton Detroit in **Troy**. Entitled “Michigan’s Long-Term Care Conference,” it has been developed to build a shared understanding of the direction of long-term care, and provide information on important initiatives in the field.

More than 500 consumers, advocates, service providers and policy makers are expected to attend. They will benefit from plenary sessions, luncheon speakers, and 36 workshop break-out sessions. Plenary speakers will include MDCH Director **Janet Olszewski**. Also, **Gov. Jennifer Granholm** and **Jackie Garner**, Region V Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), have been invited to speak.

The conference will be conducted to promote awareness of Michigan’s implementation plans for the Medicaid LTC Task Force Report, and to develop a shared understanding of Michigan’s plans for LTC reform. It also will cover LTC economic challenges and opportunities, national perspectives on LTC reform, promising LTC practices based on state and national initiatives, and Michigan’s Real Choice Systems Change Grants.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mdch.

Governor and First Gentleman Invite 2006 Award Nominations

Gov. Granholm and First Gentleman **Daniel Mulhern** invite Michigan citizens to nominate a volunteer hero or organization for the 2006 Governor’s Service Awards. Nominations must be postmarked by **February 20**.

Governor’s Service Awards nominees are selfless individuals and organizations who serve others by mentoring children, serving the hungry and homeless, assist elders, care for our environment, and much more.

The awards will be given in eight categories. Five finalists in each category will be honored at a celebration hosted by the Governor and First Gentleman sometime in late spring or early summer in Southeast Michigan.

The eight award categories are the Gov. George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Mentor Award, Innovative Mentoring Program Award, Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Award, Exemplary Community Service Program Award,

Exemplary Volunteer Service Award, Youth Volunteer Award of Excellence, and Senior Volunteer Award of Excellence.

For more information, or to download a nomination form, go www.michigan.gov/mcsc, the Michigan Community Service Commission website. To receive a hard copy, call 517/373-4200 or e-mail to vasilionk@Michigan.gov.

Community College Offers Eldercare Specialist Certificate

Macomb County Community College now offers an Eldercare Specialist Certificate and other professional development classes as part of the Continuing and Professional Education Program at its Central Campus in **Clinton Township**.

The goal of this certificate program is to give a broad overview of the field of gerontology to prepare entry-level workers for careers in this growing field. These include caregivers, activity assistants, social work assistants, caseworkers, and direct care workers. In addition, Eldercare Specialist Certificates provide an “added value” certificate for working professionals to enhance their work with senior adults.

The curriculum covers theories of aging, basic caregiving, wellness, sensitivity training, environmental safety, risk management, dementia education, practical tips for working with people with dementia related illnesses, and physiological, psychological and sociological stereotypes and myths.

Those who complete three 12-hour courses, totaling 36 contact hours, will receive an Elder Specialist Certificate. The first course, entitled “Introduction to Gerontology,” is followed by the “Aging Body, Mind & Spirit,” and then “The Art of Caregiving.”

For more information, or to register online, go to www.macomb.edu or call 586/498-4006. You also can e-mail **Michelle Valin** at the college (valinm@macomb.edu).

Worksheet Helps Medicare Beneficiaries Choose Drug Plan

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provide a “Personal Info Worksheet” that will help people with Medicare collect data they will need to choose and enroll in a prescription drug plan.

Using a completed worksheet, beneficiaries can save time when calling 800/MEDICARE or going to www.medicare.gov for assistance. Worksheets can be downloaded from www.goldenbuckeye.com/medicarerx.

NIA Offers Free Publications and E-mail Alerts

The National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health, has a portfolio of free publications full of information and resources designed specifically for senior adults. Individuals also can sign up for regular e-mail alerts.

For example, the NIA recently published a revised booklet entitled Talking with Your Doctor: A Guide for Older People. It gives readers a wide variety of helpful hints and timely tips that can be used at each doctor visit. Topics run from choosing a doctor to getting ready for an appointment, from discussing sensitive subjects to involving family and friends.

NIA also provides its popular “Age Pages.” There are now over 40 topics in this series. Each “Age Page” contains an overview of a specific topic area, and it offers readers a list of resources for more detailed information. “Age Page” titles include Hypothermia: A Cold Weather Hazard, Shots for Safety, and Shingles. “Age Pages” also are offered in Spanish, and can be ordered in bulk.

For more information, to place an order, or to sign up for a regular e-mail alert, call toll-free 800/222-2225, or go to www.niapublications.org.

What is the MGA?

What is the Michigan Guardianship Association (MGA)? It is a nonprofit organization that aspires to strengthen guardianship and related services through networking, continuing education, and tracking legislation. MGA members also strive to improve services to those with physical disabilities, mental illness, and elders.

Membership is available to individuals and organizations who serve as guardians, and to allied professionals who participate in activities which enhance the role of a guardian.

Members include guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, representative payees, physicians and hospitals, advocates, residential providers, estate liquidators, funeral directors, attorneys, social workers, bankers, politicians, case managers, nursing homes, and adult foster care staff members.

For more information, go to www.michiganguardianship.org. The MGA is an affiliate of the National Guardianship Association.

FEDERAL REGISTER (November 21-December 23)

President Declares January as National Mentoring Month

See the Federal Register dated **December 28, 2005** (Vol. 70, No. 248). Go to “Presidential Documents” and see “Proclamations, Special Observances.” This proclamation by the President designates **January** as National Hospice Month, 2006. It recognizes the many individuals, including senior adults, who dedicate their time, talents and energy to help children develop character and integrity. Mentors help provide a supportive example for a young person. By showing love, support and compassion, one person can make a difference in the life of a child, and help that child learn the importance of resisting negative peer pressure, staying off drugs, and achieving good results in school. Mentors are changing lives for the better, and helping young people to grow up to be responsible citizens and successful adults.

SAA Issues Final Rules for Medicare Part D Subsidies

See the Federal Register dated **December 30, 2005** (Vol. 70, No. 250). Go to “Social Security Administration” and see “Rules, Social Security benefits.” The SSA is adding a new subpart to its rules for evaluating applications for premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the Medicare Program. This new subpart, Medicare Part D Subsidies,

contains the rules the SSA uses to determine eligibility for premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the Medicare Part D subsidy program that was added by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003. These final rules describe the new subpart; how to apply for a subsidy; how eligibility is determined and re-determined; when eligibility terminates; and how to appeal a determination made by the SSA. This final rule is effective **December 30, 2005**. For more information about the final rule, call 410/965-9793. For more information about eligibility or filing for benefits, go to www.socialsecurity.gov or call toll-free 800/772-1213.

AHRQ Invites Suggestions to Submit Research Recommendations

See the Federal Register dated **January 5** (Vol. 71, No. 3). Go to "Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality" and see "Notices." This notice from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) invites suggestions from interested organizations and individuals regarding the highest priorities for research, demonstration and evaluation projects to support and improve the Medicare, Medicaid and State Children Health Insurance (SCHIP) programs. This research may address: first, the outcomes, comparative clinical effectiveness, and appropriateness of health care items and services (including prescription drugs); and second, strategies for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of such programs, including the ways in which such items and services are organized, managed and delivered under such programs. Submit recommendations electronically to www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov or e-mail them to effectivehealthcare@ahrq.gov. Recommendations must be received by **March 1**. For more information, go to www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov.

LEGISLATION

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, e-mail comments to **OSA Director Sharon Gire** at osadirector@michigan.gov, or mail them to her at OSA (P.O. Box 30676 in Lansing, 48909-8176).

New House Bills

(December 27, 2005-January 13, 2006)

New Senate Bills

(December 27, 2005-January 13, 2006)

Senate Bill (SB) 951 of 2006

Income tax; other; companion animal welfare fund; create. Creates new act. Tie-barred with Senate Bill (SB) 952 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Sen. Valde Garcia** (R-Howell) and co-sponsored by 21 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 1-11-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 952 of 2006

Income tax; check-off; companion animal welfare fund; provide for check-off option. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Tie-barred with Senate Bill (SB) 951 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Sen. Valde Garcia** (R-Howell) and co-sponsored by 21 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 1-11-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 953 of 2006

Retirement; state employees; benefits; provide for an 80-and-out plan. Amends Public Act (PA) 240 of 1943. Sponsored by **Sen. Virg Bernero** (D-Lansing) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 1-11-06.

Bills that have Moved
(Since September 1, 2005)

See Changes (since December 27, 2005) to **House Bill (HB) 5198**, **House Bill (HB) 5487**, **Senate Bill (SB) 529** (see **Public Act 338** of 2005), and **Senate Bill (SB) 530** (see **Public Act 339** of 2005).

House Bill (HB) 4074 of 2005

This bill, with HB 5314, would remove community college employees hired after January 1, 2006 from the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, and would revise the definition of "eligible employees" to include administrators or faculty employed at a community college on a part-time basis. Amends Public Act (PA) 156 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale). Referred to the House Committee on Higher Education 1-27-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 3-18-05 and 11-28-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-8-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Education 12-13-05.

House Bill (HB) 4337 of 2005

Income tax; exemptions; caring for senior citizen in home; provide for additional exemption. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Rick Shaffer** (R-Three Rivers) and co-sponsored by five others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 2-17-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 12-1-05. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 12-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 4606 of 2005

The bill would amend the Public Health Code. Currently the code prohibits a health care facility (i.e., a hospital or nursing home) from giving a copy of a patient's or resident's medical record to a third party without prior authorization from the patient or resident. The bill would retain this restriction on the release of a person's medical information except as otherwise permitted or required under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA). The Public Health Code also allows a patient or resident to refuse the release of personal and medical records to a

person outside the health facility or agency except as required because of a transfer to another health care facility or as required by law or third party payment contract. The bill would allow the release of these records as permitted or required under HIPPA. Furthermore, the Public Health Code entitles a patient or resident to inspect, or receive for a reasonable fee, a copy of his or her own medical record. The bill would specify that this would be done in accordance with the Medical Records Access Act. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Stephen Adamini** (D-Marquette) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 10-17-05 and 10-24-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-25-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-26-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-27-05.

House Bill (HB) 4670 of 2005

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to create a special volunteer license for retired MDs and DOs who wish to provide medical care for the indigent and needy, or in medically underserved areas of the state on a volunteer basis. Under the bill, a physician would be considered retired from practice if he or she had intended to stop engaging in the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery for remuneration when the license expired. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 22 others. Referred to the House Committee on House Policy 4-26-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 5-23-05. House Substitute Bill adopted 11-10-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 11-28-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-29-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 11-30-05.

House Bill (HB) 4751 of 2005

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act, which deals with the Medicaid program, to allow Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive services related to care (e.g., assisted living) provided in an adult foster care facility licensed under the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act if certain conditions are met. The Michigan Department of Community Services (DCH) would be required to seek a waiver from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide adult foster care-related services. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Rep. Richard Ball** (R-Laingsburg) and co-sponsored by 13 others. Referred to the House Committee on Family and Children Services 5-10-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-17-05. Reported with recommendation with a House substitute bill 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 4773 of 2005

Torts; product liability; immunity from liability for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; rescind. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Dianne Byrum** (D-Onondaga) and co-sponsored by 37 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-11-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 4789 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to address the use of “dining assistants” by nursing homes. It would allow nursing homes to use dining assistants to feed residents who need assistance or encouragement with eating and drinking but do not have complicated feeding problems, such as difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung

aspirations, and tube or parenteral feedings. The use of a dining assistant would be based on a charge nurse's assessment of the resident and that resident's most recent plan of care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 4792 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require that the Department of Community Health (DCH) transmit to a nursing home a written or electronic copy of the results of each visit and survey conducted within 10 business days after the visit. Within 24 hours after receiving the survey report, or within 24 hours after receiving notice that the department has approved a nursing home's plan of correction, the nursing home would have to post the report in a conspicuous place in the home for public review. Within 30 days after the report or correction plan is posted, the nursing home would have to notify its residents it had been received and was posted within the nursing home, and that a summary was available through the Internet or on the DCH website. A nursing home could satisfy the notification by including a notification in a monthly newsletter or other written documentation, distributed to the resident, the resident's family, or a designated representative. If the survey report or plan of correction includes an immediate jeopardy citation, the nursing home would be required to include a description of the citation and a description of how the situation was corrected. If the department issues a notice of an immediate jeopardy situation to a nursing home, then the nursing home would be required to post the notice, with the nursing home's plan to rectify the situation, immediately after the removal of the immediate jeopardy situation. The notice would have to be placed in a conspicuous place for public view in the nursing home for not less than seven days. If the immediate jeopardy situation results in serious injury, or a change in the health status of a resident or residents within the nursing home, the home would be required to immediately notify the resident's family, or a designated representative, of the immediate jeopardy situation. In addition, the bill would require that, before renewing a license, MDCH review the most recent inspection, survey and evaluation of that facility, and any written determination made concerning a complaint filed within the previous two years. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-10-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 4811 of 2005

Torts; liability; liability suits brought against drug manufacturers for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; allow. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by Rep. **Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-19-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5071 of 2005

Consumer protection; unfair trade practices; liability for inaccurate representations

concerning risks of certain drugs, medications, and supplements; clarify. Amends Public Act (PA) 331 of 1976. Sponsored by **Rep. Marie Donigan** (D-Royal Oak) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 7-27-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5081 of 2005

This bill would permit an individual who is unable to write to use his or her fingerprints as a written signature. That is, visible fingerprints would be included as a "paper mark." Amends RS 1 of 1846 (MCL 8.3q). Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township). Referred to the House Committee on Government Relations 8-10-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved by the House 9-6-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-7-05. Re-referred to the House Committee on Governmental Operations 9-28-05.

House Bill (HB) 5139 of 2005

Civil procedure, statute of limitations; drug product liability cases previously prohibited because of FDA approval defense; allow to be commenced within 3 years of repeal of defense. Amends PA 236 of 1961. It is tie barred to HB 4773 which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary McDowell** (D-Rudyard) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 9-7-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05.

House Bill (HB) 5166 of 2005

This bill would amend the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act to require background checks on new employees of adult foster care facilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1979. It is tie-barred with HB 5168 (which means neither can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 57 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-28-05 and 12-6-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5167 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to apply background check requirements to applicants for initial licensure or registration in health occupations. The bill would impose a nominal fee, beginning January 1, 2006, not to exceed \$2 for the processing of criminal history background checks for applicants for initial licensure or registration and renewals, and the applicants would be responsible for any charges for the criminal history check. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Michael Murphy** (D- Lansing) and co-sponsored by 43 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-13-05. House Fiscal Agency(HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-28-05 and 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5168 of 2005

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to require background checks on new employees of a health facility or agency (a nursing home, county medical facility, hospice, hospital that provides swing bed services, home for the aged,

or home health agency). Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. It is tie-barred with HB 5448, SB 621 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by 50 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-13-05. House Fiscal Agency(HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-28-05 and 12-6-05. House substitute bill adopted and amended 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5183 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a nursing home, county medical care facility, or home for the aged to provide each employee who provides direct services to patients or residents with a written notice of its substance abuse policy, or a copy of that policy if the facility requires employees to submit to substance screening or abuse testing, whether random or otherwise, as a condition of employment. The notice would be provided upon hiring. If a notice of the policy is provided in lieu of a copy, the notice will contain the following: (a) Circumstances under which an employee may be required to submit to a test. (b) Consequences for refusing to submit to a test. (c) Procedures for challenging the accuracy of the test. (d) Notice and testing requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-15-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Analysis (HFA) 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 5198 of 2005

This bill would amend Public Act 259 of 1909, which pertains to judgments of divorce and judgments of separate maintenance, to clarify that each judgment of divorce or judgment of separation would have to determine all rights, including any contingent rights of the parties regarding any vested pension, annuity, or retirement benefit; any accumulated contributions in any pension, annuity, or retirement system; and, in accordance with the revised Statutes of 1846, any unvested pension, annuity or retirement benefits. Sponsored by **Rep. Tonya Schuitmaker** (R-Lawton) and co-sponsored by 58 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 9-21-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 12-5-05 and 12-12-05. Substitute bill adopted by the House 12-13-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-13-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 1-11-06.

House Bill (HB) 5325 of 2005

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a hospital, during flu season, to inform each elderly person admitted to the hospital for a period of 24 hours or more that the influenza vaccine is available. This would apply unless a flu vaccine shortage has been declared, causing a hospital to have an inadequate supply in stock. If an elderly person requests to be vaccinated, and a physician, physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner determines that the vaccine is in the patient's best interest, the hospital would have to administer the vaccination to the elderly person before he or she is discharged, and document the vaccination in the patient's medical record. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Kevin Green** (R-Wyoming) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-18-02. Referred with recommendation without amendment(s) 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5375 of 2005

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to specify that a physician who provides medical care under a special volunteer license, granted under provisions of House Bill 4670, would not be liable in a civil action for personal injury or death that was proximately caused by the professional negligence or malpractice of the physician in providing the care. Civil immunity would only apply if the care was provided at a health facility or agency that provided at least 75 percent of its care annually to medically indigent individuals, and the physician did not receive, and did not intend to receive, compensation for providing the care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 17 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 10-26-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 11-07-05 and 11-28-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-29-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 11-30-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 12-6-05 and 12-7-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole 12-7-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 12-16-05.

House Bill (HB) 5448 of 2005

This bill would amend the mental health code to require background checks on new employees of psychiatric facilities or immediate care facilities for people with mental retardation. Amends Public Act (PA) 258 of 1974. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, SB 621 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 47 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 11-29-05. Re-assigned to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-30-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 12-6-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-6-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 12-6-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 12-7-05.

House Bill (HB) 5487 of 2005

Property tax; exemptions; tax exemption for certain nonprofit housing corporations and nonprofit corporations with a license to solicit charitable donations; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Local Government and Urban Policy 12-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 12-13-05. House substitute bill adopted 12-13-05. Passed by the House with immediate effect 12-13-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs 1-11-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 267 of 2005

Appropriations; community health; Department of Community Health; provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 6-6-05 and 6-9-05. Reported by the Senate Committee on the Whole favorably with Senate substitute bill and amendments. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate as amended 6-14-05. Passed by the Senate 6-14-05. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-16-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-22-05. House substitute bill adopted by the Senate 6-28-05. Passed by the House 6-28-05. Returned to the Senate 6-28-05. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-30-05. Referred to Conference Committee 9-13-05. Conference Report 9-20-05. Conference Report received by the Senate 10-11-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-11-05. Senate reconsidered nonconcurrence with House Bill 10-11-05. For final disposition of budget, see House

Bill (HB) 4831, now Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005.

Senate Bill (SB) 334 of 2005

This bill would amend the Customer Choice and Electricity Reliability Act (the act) to create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Program within the Public Service Commission (PSC); require the PSC to implement a low income energy assistance and efficiency factor that would be a nonbypassable surcharge payable by every customer receiving a distribution service from a natural gas or electric utility with rates regulated by the PSC; create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Fund within the State Treasury, and require money collected through the surcharge to be deposited into the fund; allow the PSC, in consultation with the Attorney General, to authorize the State Treasurer to make disbursements from the fund through a grant process to any entity that provided assistance to utility customers; and repeal Section 6c of the act which allows the PSC to approve energy conservation programs for residential customers, and fund those programs through general utility rates. Amends Public Act (PA) 3 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Bruce Patterson** (R-Canton) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy 3-22-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 4-27-05 and 5-24-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 5-24-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 5-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations 9-14-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 621 of 2005

This bill would amend provisions of the Public Health Code to repeal and replace provisions that disqualify a person from employment with a nursing home for certain convictions, and require criminal history checks of applicants for employment. It would expand the crimes covered by the law, include drug misdemeanors; expand the types of facilities that must conduct background checks; require annual background checks; and increase sanctions. It would apply to nursing homes, county medical care facilities, hospices, hospitals that provide swing bed services, homes for the aged, and home health agencies. It would prohibit individuals who would have direct access or provide direct services to patients or residents in those facilities or agencies from working, contracting, or being granted clinical privileges with the facilities or agencies, if they were convicted of or subject to any of the following: a felony within 15 years immediately preceding the date of application; a misdemeanor involving controlled substances, abuse, neglect, assault, battery, criminal sexual conduct or a state or federal crime that was substantially similar within 10 years immediately preceding the date of application; a relevant crime under provisions of federal law that excludes certain individuals and entities from participation in Medicare and state health care programs; an order or disposition under sections of the Mental Health Code, Estates and Protected Individuals Code, and the Code of Criminal Procedure; or a substantiated finding of neglect, abuse, or misappropriation of property by a state or federal agency pursuant to an investigation conducted in accordance with federal law. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 622 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Sen. Patricia L. Birkholz** (R-Saugatuck) and co-sponsored by six others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 6-21-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 11-29-05 and 12-7-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in 12-13-05. Amendments adopted 12-13-05. Passed by the Senate 12-13-05. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 12-13-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 622 of 2005

This bill would amend provisions of the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act to

repeal and replace provisions that disqualify a person from employment for certain convictions and that require criminal history checks of applicants for employment. The bill includes proposals pertaining to employment in an adult foster care facility that are consistent with those proposed in Senate Bill (SB) 621 regarding employment in a nursing home, county medical care facility, hospice, hospital that provides swing bed services, home for the aged, or home health agency. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1979. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 621 (which means none of them can take effect unless all of them do). Sponsored by **Sen. Tony Stamas** (R-Midland) and co-sponsored by six others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 6-21-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 11-29-05 and 12-7-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in 12-13-05. Amendments adopted 12-13-05. Passed by the Senate 12-13-05. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 12-13-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 712 2005

This bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to allow recreational card playing at nonresidential senior centers. Currently Chapter 44 of the code, which regulates gambling, does not apply to card playing at senior citizen housing facilities. The bill would extend that exemption to senior centers that are not housing facilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 328 of 1931. Sponsored by **Sen. Cameron Brown** (R-Sturgis). Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 8-31-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 10-19-05 and 11-1-05. Substitute Bill concurred in by the Senate 11-1-05. Passed by the Senate 11-3-05. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 11-3-05.

2005-2006 Public Acts

Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005

House Bill (HB) 4188 of 2005

This bill amends the General Property Tax Act to increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum household income of a taxpayer 62 years old, or older, who may defer the collection of summer property taxes, and to remove the income limit for other taxpayers eligible for the summer tax collection deferral. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Tory Rocca** (R-Sterling Heights) and co-sponsored by 72 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-23-05, and assigned PA 24 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005

House Bill (HB) 4434 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide that pharmacies that shared a real-time, online database or other equivalent means of communication, or pharmacies that transferred prescriptions pursuant to a written contract for centralized prescription processing services, would not have to follow the procedure established in the Code to refill a copy of a prescription from another pharmacy. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by 82 others, this bill was tie-barred with SB 352 (which meant neither could take effect unless both did). It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05, and assigned PA 72 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 73 of 2005

Senate Bill (SB) 352 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow a pharmacy to perform centralized

prescription processing services or outsource those services to another pharmacy if certain conditions are met. It amends Public Act 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood) and co-sponsored by 23 others, this bill was tie-barred with HB 4434 (which meant neither could take effect unless both did). It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 8-31-05, and assigned PA 73 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005
House Bill (HB) 4405 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to eliminate the authority of a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions against a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gretchen Whitmer** (D-East Lansing) and co-sponsored by 63 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-20-05, and assigned PA 85 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 109 of 2005
House Bill (HB) 4436 of 2005

Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005. This bill increases private funds authorization for OSA \$75,000 to recognize private contributions for administering the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors, or Project FRESH. Federal funds support the food costs, and the administrative costs must be supported by the state and other contributors. It creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-15-05, and assigned PA 109 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 114 of 2005
Senate Bill (SB) 348 of 2005

The General Property Tax Act requires local tax collecting units that collect a summer property tax to defer the collection, at the taxpayer's request, until the following February 15 for the principal residence of taxpayers with a household income of \$35,000 or less. To be eligible for the deferment, a taxpayer must be totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or an eligible serviceperson or an eligible veteran (or be the widow or widower of such a person). The deferment is also available to taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at time of death. This bill eliminates the income requirement for these taxpayers, except for taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at the time of death. For those taxpayers, the income threshold will increase to \$37,500 for the 2006 tax year and to \$40,000 for the 2007 tax year and beyond. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Nancy Cassis** (R-Novi) and co-sponsored by four others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-21-05, and assigned PA 114 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 147 of 2005
Senate Bill (SB) 271 of 2005

Appropriations; Family Independence Agency (now the Department of Human Services); provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line-items vetoed, and assigned PA 147 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005
House Bill (HB) 4831 OF 2005

Appropriations; other; zero budget appropriations bill; provide for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line items vetoed, and assigned PA 154 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 161 of 2005
House Bill (HB) 4996 OF 2005

Under provisions of the Public Health Code, dental hygienists, under the supervision of a dentist, can now provide dental hygiene services to patients who have not first been examined by a dentist as part of a program for “dentally underserved” patients conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency. This bill amends the Public Health Code to revise the criteria for designation as a grantee health agency to include, for example, a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 36 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-4-05, and assigned PA 161 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 187 of 2005
House Bill (HB) 5055 OF 2005

This bill modifies the nursing home and hospital Quality Assurance Assessment Programs (QAAPs) to extend sunsets, reflect the amount of tax retained by the State, and changes the way the nursing home QAAP is assessed. The QAAP includes county-owned nursing homes for the first time. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-27-05, and assigned PA 187 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 338 of 2005
Senate Bill (SB) 529 OF 2005

This bill would make homestead facilities eligible for residential tax abatements under the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act. Currently the act applies only to newly constructed and rehabilitated residential housing. This bill would apply to other existing residences purchased since December 31, 1997. The homestead facility would receive a property tax abatement equal to one-half of the property taxes levied for operating purposes on the building by the local unit and the county. It amends Public Act 147 of 1992. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Highland Park), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 12/31/05, and assigned PA 338 with immediate effect.**

Public Act (PA) 339 of 2005
Senate Bill (SB) 530 OF 2005

This bill would make homestead facilities eligible for residential tax abatements under the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act. Currently the act applies only to newly constructed and rehabilitated residential housing. This bill would apply to other existing residences purchased since December 31, 1997. The homestead facility would receive a property tax abatement equal to one-half of the property taxes levied for operating purposes on the building by the local unit and the county. It amends Public Act (PA) 147 of 1992. Sponsored by **Sen. Samuel Thomas III** (D-Detroit), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 12-31-05, and assigned PA 339 with immediate effect.**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Bridging Communities to Hire New Executive Director

Bridging Communities is looking for a new Executive Director. The agency is a nonprofit, community-based organization that serves the senior adult population in the multi-ethnic community of southwest **Detroit**. It also is involved with several community development activities in that area of the city.

Salary range is \$45,000 to \$50,000, commensurate with experience. Job requirements include a MSW degree, as well as experience in nonprofit management, finance, fund development, marketing and grant writing. Also, it will require ability to work cooperatively with government, neighborhood residents, and a nonprofit board of directors. In addition, Bridging Communities prefers to find someone who is bilingual and has gerontology training.

At present there is no deadline for applying. Applicants should submit a resume and work related references only via US mail to: Bridging Communities, 6900 McGraw, Detroit, MI 48210.

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

This semi-monthly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available at no cost.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, and other resources described in Resources for Aging should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. This information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Please help us spread the word about this free resource for aging to those in the aging network and others who are interested. If you or others wish to receive it directly by e-mail, send a request by e-mail to writer/editor **David Dekker** at dekkerd@michigan.gov. Please include name, e-mail address, organization/agency and telephone number.

Comments and suggestions are appreciated. Also, readers are invited to submit information to be considered for publication. Please send to dekkerd@michigan.gov or to Resources for Aging, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176.

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